



# Town of *Westford* Massachusetts

## Town Manager's Newsletter

January 2022



**Jodi Ross,**  
Town  
Manager

[jross@westfordma.gov](mailto:jross@westfordma.gov)  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm)

### Important:

Please sign up to  
receive updates on the  
latest road construction  
in town.

[Subscribe to  
Notifications](#)



**February 8, 7:00 PM**  
**Town Manager Presents**  
**FY23 budget to**  
**Select Board and**  
**Finance Committee**

**Annual Town Meeting**  
**June 11, 2022**  
**(June 12 rain date)**  
**Westford Academy**  
**Field**

WESTFORD, MASSACHUSETTS  
**50 BEST  
PLACES  
TO LIVE  
IN AMERICA**

MONEY MAGAZINE - 2021

**46th**

Watch  
Meetings Online

**westford**   
community access television

[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

### Dear Westford residents,

I'm pleased to announce the winners of the Westford elementary schools Name Our Town Snow Plow Contest. You can find the list of winners on page 13 of this newsletter. Thank you to all elementary school students for participating.

At the Select Board's latest meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, the board heard a presentation from the Permanent Town Building Committee (PTBC) on the updated design and floor plans for the New Center Building at 51 Main Street. The Select Board thanked the PTBC for their efforts on the updated building design and were really pleased with the updated plans. The board continued the discussion to their meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> to allow further time for the architect and the PTBC to research building sustainability options. To view documents shared during the PTBC's presentation, please visit the following link, Select Board meeting packet 2022-01-11 and see documents under item 06.00: [New Center Building Project Documents](#).

At that same meeting, Chris Barrett, Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Committee (PSC), requested the board's consideration of priority sidewalk projects for funding in Fiscal Year 2023. These sidewalk projects include West Street at East Prescott Street, Carlisle Road at Jack Walsh, and Plain Road Phase II. The Select Board approved each of these requests. To view a map of the sidewalks, please visit the following link: [Pedestrian Safety Committee FY23 Capital Request and Project Maps](#).

Ellen Harde, Chair of The 35 Town Farm Task Force, appeared before the Select Board with a request for the board to allocate \$237,000 from American Rescue Plan Act Funding and support an Article for the 2022 Annual Town Meeting seeking \$580,000 for the engineering and construction of the new Fire Training Facility. The Select Board continued this request to review Covid-19 - related ARPA requests and will reconsider at their meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

As a continuation of the Select Board's review of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding requests, the board was presented with a recap of projects approved to date, funding spent, and funding available. The Select Board approved funding for the following:

- Community Wellness Coordinator for 18 months using \$150,000 of ARPA funds
- Mobile Mental Health Clinician as presented using \$45,000 of ARPA funds
- Purchase of Covid-19 tests for residents using \$75,000 of ARPA funds

The Access to Town Meeting Committee has created a survey which they have asked residents to complete and is available online at the following link: [Thoughts on Town Meeting](#). Hard copies of the survey are available at the J.V. Fletcher Library, Cameron Senior Center and Town Clerk's Office.

Our Public Safety Departments have implemented a Community Messaging System known as Smart911 to notify residents through an automated telephone dialing system, which sends automatically sends a message when important

(Continued on next page)

[WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV](http://WWW.WESTFORDMA.GOV)

information needs to be communicated. Most residents do not need to take action to receive these notifications however, if you recently moved to Westford, changed your home phone number, have an unlisted number, would like to add a mobile number or add an email for email notifications, you may update your information at the following link: [Smart911 Sign-up](#).

The Select Board and I would like to thank the Lowell Five Cent Savings Bank for gifting Westford a donation of \$3,000 to be used by our public safety departments, including police, fire and dispatch. We are very appreciative and grateful for their support.

After over 32 years of service to our town in the Westford Fire Department, Lieutenant Jim Lamy retired effective January 8, 2022. The Select Board and I thanked Jim for his hard work through all these years and I extend my best wishes to him for a long, healthy, happy retirement!

There are several openings on our local boards and committees, including: 35 Town Farm Road Task Force, Access to Town Meeting Committee, Affordable Housing Trust, Agricultural Commission, Board of Cemetery Commissions, Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, Commission on Disability, Communications Advisory Committee, Council on Aging, Cultural Council, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Dog Park Task Force, Economic Development Committee, Election Officer, Healthy Westford Committee, Parkerville Schoolhouse Committee, Parks, Grounds and Recreation Commission, Pedestrian Safety Committee, Permanent Town Building Committee, Recycling Commission, Senior Low Income Disabled Tax Relief Committee, Westford Scholarship and Grant Committee, and Zoning Board of Appeals. I urge you to peruse our website for information about the work of these committees; and if you have interest, please complete a Citizen's Activity form at this link: [Citizen Activity Form](#).

Would you like more detailed information on the Select Board's meetings? Click the following links to access: [Select Board Documents](#) & [Select Board Meeting Videos](#).

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,



Jodi Ross  
Town Manager



*A US Marine lays a Christmas wreath  
at Pine Grove Cemetery, joining many veterans and volunteers who placed  
over 1,200 wreaths on veterans graves across Westford for  
the Wreaths Across America event on Dec. 18.*

## January at the J.V. Fletcher Library

Unless otherwise noted, the following programs are made possible by the Friends of the Library.



Due to the uptick in COVID cases, all programming will temporarily take place virtually. The Library Board of Trustees will continue to monitor the case count and will re-evaluate this decision on a continual basis.

**Concerned about Covid?:** If you would like to enjoy Library items but are concerned about coming into the building, partake of our Curbside service. Call the Main desk and we will bring your items down to the back entrance. Not sure what to read next? We also offer ["Book Bundles" for kids and tweens and "Grab and Go" bags](#) for our adult patrons. You don't even have to leave the comfort of your own home to download/stream a huge collection of e-books, e-audio books, movies, television shows, music, and even comic books. Check out [Overdrive, Hoopla, and Kanopy](#) for an ever expanding collection of digital items.

**Story Time and Book Club Online Registration: All story times and book clubs will temporarily meet virtually.** Online registration for these programs is ongoing. Please see the [website](#) for descriptions of our selection of story times and to register. Book clubs are open to Westford residents and non-resident Friends of the J.V. Fletcher Library. Book clubs are for grades Kindergarten, 1, 2, 3, and 4 and 5 (combined) and meet once a month from 4 to 4:45 p.m. The Non-Fiction Book Club is for kids in grades 3 and 4 and meets once a month on Monday afternoon. The Art Book club is for kids in grade 3 to 5 and meets once a month on a Thursday afternoon.

**Virtual Beatrix Potter: The Woman Behind the Rabbit: Thursday, Jan. 20 at 7:00 p.m.** Peter Rabbit and Squirrel Nutkin fans take note! Betsy Bray, an international authority on Beatrix Potter, presents a lively look at Potter's remarkable life. She'll discuss Potter's many roles, from author/illustrator of 23 children's books to her later life as sheep farmer, land conservationist, entrepreneur and community activist. Please register through the [Events Calendar](#).

**Virtual Teen and Tween Make & Take Crafternoons: Monday afternoons from 3:30-4:30 p.m.** Join Jess via ZOOM for a relaxing and fun-filled Crafternoon. Please register through the [Events Calendar](#) to receive the Zoom Link and to reserve your kit full of supplies to make the craft of the month! You will be notified when your kit is ready for pick up. This program is for tweens and teens in grades 5-12.

**[Virtual Westford Job Seekers:](#)** The J. V. Fletcher Library's "Westford Job Seekers Network" meets weekly on Wednesdays from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. Attracting people of diverse work backgrounds and age groups, this group helps you expand your network of business contacts, discover new job opportunities and connect with others who are in job transition and can become part of your support group. Meetings include guest speakers who are experts in the job search process or in career development. Contact Dina Kanabar, [dkanabar@westfordma.gov](mailto:dkanabar@westfordma.gov) for more information.

(continued on next page)

## **January at the J.V. Fletcher Library (Continued)**

**Virtual Monday Mystery, Adult Non Fiction, Thursday Night Book Club:** All of our adult book clubs welcome new members. Please visit [westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/](https://westfordlibrary.org/events/adult-book-clubs/) for more information, reading lists, and upcoming meeting dates!

**Virtual Qigong Class: every Mon. from 10:30 AM to 11:30 AM** Dvora Eisenstein leads this free recurring Qigong class on Zoom. Qigong is an ancient Chinese health care system integrating slow movements, breathing techniques, and focused intention. Qigong calms your mind, improves your balance, and enhances health. Suitable for all levels of ability and ages. Anyone may join at any time. Hosted and sponsored by the Sunderland Public Library and made available to all Westford residents. To join, use this Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/117278043>

Check out our [Museum Passes page](#) or call the Library for reservations. Unless otherwise noted, our museum passes are generously funded by the Friends of the Library. [Have you joined the Friends yet?](#)



### **Quick Links to Our Most Popular Services!**

[Book Bundles for Kids, Teens, and Adults](#)

[Programs – Adults](#)

[Programs – Kids](#)

[Programs – Young Adults](#)

**If you have questions or need assistance, please call us at 978-399-2300 or send us an email at [westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov](mailto:westfordlibrary@westfordma.gov)**

## Cameron Senior Center

Cameron Senior Center welcomes all adults ages 55+ for some winter day activities and togetherness

### Let's Think Warm Thoughts with A Hawaiian Evening!

**Date & Time: Tuesday, January 25<sup>th</sup> from 4-6PM**

Come enjoy vocal musician Roger Ticknell (a Cameron favorite)

Wear your bright luau attire and possibly win a prize! Be sure to do some stretching, limbo and hoola hoop contests!

Your Hawaiian Menu is being prepared by Donna Dutton which includes: a bed of rice with grilled chicken and our favorite pineapple topper, green vegetable medley and dessert. This dinner will be slightly modified due to COVID and will be specially served up in a To-Go container after a fun early evening together.

Event Sponsors: **The Westford Food Pantry and the Friends of Cameron**



### Current Support Group Survey and We Want YOUR Input –

In the past we have had various groups to help folks manage different aspects of their lives i.e. Living with Chronic Illness, Pain Management, Caregiver Support, Aging Mastery, Decluttering etc. We would like to offer another 6-8-week support group in the spring months but want to hear from you what might be most needed/wanted. We could repeat any of the above or try a new one such as a grief support group, coping with loneliness, dealing with memory issues.

Please share your ideas with Annette or Alison your social service team by calling 978-692-5523. We are here to serve you.

### Karaoke Night at The Cameron- Big Night Full of Laughter and Talent

**Date and Time: Thursday, January 27, at 3PM**



Join us for a night you won't forget! Much laughter and fun. Bring your friends! Even if you can't sing you will still have a blast with a night out on the town at your local favorite Karaoke hang-out.

Take home mocktails, pizza and chicken wings will be given to all event participants after the big night.

Cost \$5 RSVP- 978-692-5523

Event Sponsor: **Friends of the Cameron**

Masks and/or Face Shield must be worn when singing and are available at the Cameron.

(Continued on next page)



Westford Senior Center

## Cameron Senior Center



### Chinese New Year's Party

**Date & Time:** Tuesday, February 1, at 1PM

Let us welcome the **Year of the Tiger** with a party! Chinese food, decorations, crafts and a great time to learn about different cultures traditions within our community. Don't forget to wear lucky colors (green, yellow, red and blue) to this event and *a prize for best event themed outfit and mask*. We have much creativity and incredible level of artistic/craft skills within our center and we can't wait to see you fashion forward

clothing and face attire. Event Sponsor: Friends of the Cameron Senior Center. Cost \$5 RSVP at 978.692.5523

### Valentine's Luncheon

**Date & Time:** Friday, February 11, at 12pm

**Entertainment:** Theatrical Vocalist: Alexandria Connolly sponsored by Rivercourt Residences

Bring your spouse, your sweetheart, your best friend, or anyone who makes you smile and join us at the Fellowship Hall at First Parish Church, 48 Main St. The menu includes: Caesar salad, vegetable lasagna, rolls, Valentine sweets and beverage. Cost for Friends members is \$8 and \$12 for Non-Friends members Please RSVP at 978.692.5523 (limited seating)

Event Sponsors: Council on Aging, Friends of the Cameron, Rivercourt Residences, Westford Rotary and Girl Scout Troop #62914 led by Troop Leader: Adrienne Dunn

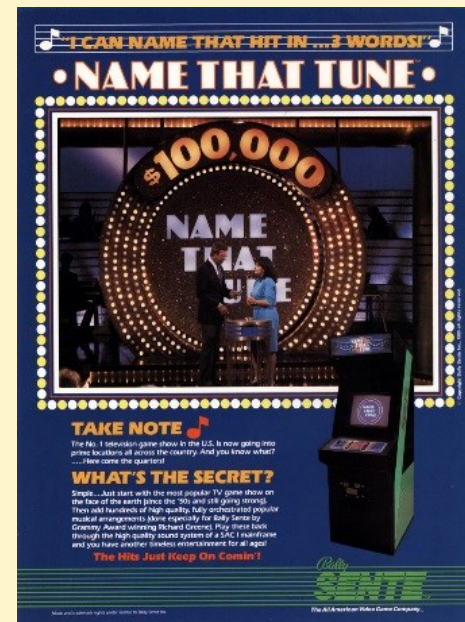


### NEW! Game Night

**Date:** Thursday, February 24, 5:30 pm

Be sure to set this date aside for an evening of fun competition may require some gloves and other safety COVID precautions or maybe not. (however, it will be entertaining and active) More details to follow, look for flyers in early February at the Cameron. Refreshment and prizes! Cost is \$3.00 RSVP by 2/18 by please calling 978-692-5523.

Event Sponsor: **Friends of the Cameron Senior Center**



To learn more about the Cameron Senior Center programs and services please visit:

[www.westfordma.gov/coa](http://www.westfordma.gov/coa), [https://www.facebook.com/Cameron Senior Center/](https://www.facebook.com/Cameron-Senior-Center/)  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaNqAZb3tw8EYYQ5bEe7XXg>

## **Recycling Commission**

### **Recycling Commission's Suggested New Year's Resolution Suggestions...**

- Take a walk on the Freeman Trail and ponder what you can commit to this year.
- Take food waste out of the trash and become a composter.
- Make conscious choices to cut down on the packaging you buy.
- Buy 'gently used' products versus new.
- Make a household pledge as to what you can do to meet climate action goals.
- Collect your plastic bags and packaging and bring them to the supermarket.
- Donate excess or unused clothing either in one of many containers in town or to an agency that will make them directly available to those in need.
- Donate used furniture versus placing it with your trash.
- Review your Recycling Guide and have the best prepared recycling containers on your street.
- Make [Westford Recycling Commission \(WRC\) | Westford, MA \(westfordma.gov\)](https://www.westfordma.gov/recycling) and [How-to-Recycle-Most-Everything-PDF \(westfordma.gov\)](https://www.westfordma.gov/recycling/How-to-Recycle-Most-Everything-PDF) favorites on your web browser.

**For more Westford recycling information, visit [www.westfordma.gov/recycling](https://www.westfordma.gov/recycling).**

**For specific questions about what is recyclable, go to [www.recyclesmartma.org](https://www.recyclesmartma.org).**

**Reduce! Reuse! Repurpose! Recycle!**



## Westford Remembers

Westford Remembers is working to raise funds for two families in town. One is a young child that is legally blind and his home is in need of fencing to keep him safe from his busy street and the other is a family whose daughter is outgrowing the ability to be carried in and out of their vehicle and they are in need of a handicapped van.

Any donation is appreciated and tax deductible, please keep our foundation in mind.

[www.westfordremembers.org](http://www.westfordremembers.org)

Venmo@westford-remembers

PO Box 869 Westford, MA 01886



Keep an eye out for a Dine for a Cause in February to help support these two families information will be available on our Facebook Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/westfordremembers01886>



**WESTFORD  
CLIMATE  
ACTION**

Westford Climate Action presents “Meeting the Climate Challenge: The View from an MIT Observatory”, a free Climate Seminar by professional staff from MIT Haystack Observatory, located in Westford.

On Thursday, January 27 @ 7:00 pm, Dr. Colin Lonsdale, radio astronomer and Haystack's director, will present general information about the Observatory's work and climate change science. Then Dr. Pedro Elosegui, leader of the geodesy team at Haystack, will talk about his Haystack polar geodetic research, which includes global climate and sea-level change. His current efforts are focused on measuring the flow, drift and deformation of the cryosphere and various forms of ice in both the Arctic and Antarctic systems. A Q&A will follow with the audience.

MIT Haystack Observatory is a radio science research laboratory based in Westford, Massachusetts, whose mission includes the advancement of scientific knowledge of our planet and its atmosphere.

This seminar is co-sponsored by the Westford Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee, and the League of Women Voters of Westford.

Register at: <https://westfordclimateaction.org/events/>



Access to Town Meeting (ATM) Committee



---

# ***WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!***

---

Please take our short survey about  
***Westford's Annual and  
Special Town Meetings***  
– whether you always attend  
or aren't sure what all the fuss is about.

---

*To take our short survey:*

- Scan this QR code  
with your phone, or
- Fill it out online at



<https://bit.ly/WestfordTMsurvey>

***Physical copies are also available at Westford Town  
Hall, Cameron Senior Center and J.V. Fletcher Library***



*A group of your fellow residents have formed a committee to improve participation at Westford's Annual and Special Town Meetings. We want our survey to be representative of our entire community and reach as many residents as possible. Please share with your neighbors and friends!*

## **Westford Fire Department**

### **Safety Tips for Condominiums and High Rise**

Sadly, in the past couple of weeks there were two devastating fires; one in the City of New York, and one in Pennsylvania that involved condominiums or high-rise buildings. Both fires had large loss of life and unfortunately, both fires were preventable.

Here are some safety tips to follow when traveling or live in a condominium or high-rise building. In accordance with the National Fire Protection Association:

***“It is important to know the fire safety features of your building and work with your neighbors to keep your building as fire safe as possible.”***

<b>When traveling for the best protection, select a fully sprinklered building.</b>	<b>When the fire alarm activates, do not wait to evacuate. Close all doors behind you and be sure to take your key.</b>
<b>Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features of your building. Fire alarms, sprinklers, evacuation plans.</b>	<b>Some evacuation plans require you to go to a “safe area” or “shelter in place” in the high-rise. Call 911 to notify the Fire Department your location.</b>
<b>Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.</b>	<b>Leave the building by the fastest route but <u>never</u> use an elevator.</b>
<b>If there is smoke or fire on your way out, use your second way out. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.</b>	<b>Develop an escape plan knowing more than one way out. Designate a meeting place outside the building in a safe area.</b>
<b>If there is a fire, pull the fire alarm on your way out of the building to notify the fire department and your neighbors.</b>	<b>Make sure you have working Smoke Alarms in your apartment, if you are not sure if they are working contact the building manager.</b>

To keep your family and yourself safe in the event of a fire the best safety tip is to have a plan. Know two ways out, have working smoke alarms, have a designated meeting place and never go back inside – once you're out, stay out. Practicing these simple tips could save your life. Further information can be obtained from <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/prevention/> for free fire-safety information or contacting the Westford Fire Prevention Office.

*Respectfully,  
Lt. Donald R. Parsons  
Fire Prevention  
Westford Fire Department*

## Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee

### Westford Climate Roadmap Presentations

The Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee recently completed the first version of **Westford Climate Roadmap: A plan to reduce net greenhouse gas emissions to zero by 2050**, and is currently in the process of engaging the community for feedback.

The development of Westford's Climate Roadmap was assigned to the Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee based on a net zero resolution passed at Special Town Meeting in October 2020. The document's purpose is to plan specific and measurable actions to guide Westford's Town government, residents, and businesses to achieve net zero emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by 2050. This is consistent with similar goals at local, state, national, and international levels. The initial version of this Roadmap serves as a baseline to be reviewed by the community and expanded and revised based on feedback from Town management, boards, residents, and businesses. It will continue to be refined and revised in future years as developments progress.

The Committee is looking forward to meeting with community members over the next several months to review and accept feedback on the plan. Version 1 of the Roadmap and related documents can be found on the [Clean Energy and Sustainability Committee webpage](#). A presentation schedule will be published by the end of February. Please contact [Beth Perkins](#) or [Mike Berlinski](#) with any questions or to schedule a presentation for a group.

## **Westford Technology Department**

As a follow up to our promotion of October as Cybersecurity Awareness Month, we are awarding trophies for the best performance in our cybersecurity training program. One goes to the best performing town department, and one goes to the best performing school.

The first winners of the prizes were the Engineering Department in recognition of their improvement during October, and the Stony Brook School for their overall highest score and clever programs during the month.

Protecting resident's data is a priority for the Town and staff training is a major part of that. Training programs run continually, with frequent mini-quizzes to keep staff up to date with the latest threats.



*Alyssa Ingalls - Technology Department, awards  
Town Engineer Paul Starratt the trophy for  
Best Performing Department.*



*Interim Principal Rick McElhinney (left) accepting the  
trophy for Stony Brook School from Superintendent of  
Schools Dr. Christopher Chew (right).*

# **Elementary School Snow Plow Truck Naming Contest Winners**



TRUCK #	SCHOOL	TRUCK NAME
54	Abbot	Plowasaurus
59	Abbot	Fireball
8	Crisafulli	Winter Dragon
11	Crisafulli	Snow Monster
12	Crisafulli	Darth Plow
15	Day	Snowy-Wan Kenobi
18	Day	Jennifer Snowpez
32	Miller	Mr. Dumps
37	Miller	Power Plower
38	Miller	Snowy Bigplow
55	Nabnasset	Godzilla
56	Nabnasset	Mr. Scoop
5	Robinson	Snow Day SPIRIT
31	Robinson	Blazing Star

